(a) whether Government is aware that the Delhi University has paid over Rs. 84 lakhs as transport allowance to employees residing within the campus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CAG has asked Government and UGC to fix responsibility in this matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to ensure that such financial irregularities are avoided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) had objected to payment of transport allowance to such employees of the University of Delhi as has been provided accommodation in the North Campus of the University. The University Grants Commission (UGC) was advised by the Government to deduct this amount from the maintenance grant of the University and the UGC has reported that an amount of Rs. 88.93 lakhs has been deducted from the budget estimates (2007-08) of Delhi University.

However, as the University of Delhi is of the view that the transport allowance is admissible in terms of Finance Ministry's O.M. dated 3rd October, 1997 as the North Campus is not a compact campus, the matter has been referred to Ministry of Finance for clarification.

Institute for comparative study of religions

2835. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has received a proposal from the Government of Punjab for setting up an institute to undertake the comparative study of religions like Sikhism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Christianity and Buddhism;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with estimated cost of the institute; and

(c) by when Government would accord approval to this institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received from the Government of Punjab.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of IITs and IIMs

2836. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in some States;

(b) if so, whether Government is also considering the proposal of Punjab for sanctioning of at least one IIT/IIM in the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;